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RON PEMSTEIN/BELGRADE

CUBA AND NON-ALIGNED DIVISIONS

ANNCR:

THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE NON-ALIGNED NATIONS ARE MEETING IN BELGRADE THIS WEEK TO CONSIDER THE ISSUES FACING THEIR MOVEMENT. THE MOST PRESSING PROBLEM SEEMS TO BE WHETHER THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES CAN MAINTAIN UNITY. FROM BELGRADE, CORRESPONDENT RON PEMSTEIN HAS THIS BACKGROUND REPORT ON THE GROWING DIVISION AMONG THE NON-ALIGNED.

VOICE:

AFTER MEETING YUGOSLAVIA'S PRESIDENT TITO, KURT WALDHEIM WAS ASKED WHY THERE IS SO MUCH DIVISION IN THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT. THE BASIC QUESTION, THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL REPLIED, IS "WHO IS NON-ALIGNED AND WHO IS NOT."

THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT IS PROUD OF ITS DIVERSITY. SRI LANKA'S FOREIGN MINISTER HAMEED BOASTED OF UNITY AMONG THE EIGHTY-SIX MEMBERS WITH SHARPLY DIVERGENT POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL SYSTEMS. A GREAT MORAL FORCE, HE TERMED NON-ALIGNMENT. BUT WHEN ONE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRY--ETHIOPIA--CALLS ON ANOTHER NON-ALIGNED COUNTRY--CUBA--TO FIGHT ANOTHER NON-ALIGNED COUNTRY--SOMALIA, THE DIVERGENCE CAN TURN INTO AN OPEN SPLIT. SOMALIA HAS THREATENED TO WORK FOR CUBA'S EXPULSION FROM THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT.

CUBA WAS ACCEPTED AS AN EARLY MEMBER OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT DESPITE ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH MOSCOW. YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS HAVE POINTED TO A NUMBER OF LATIN AMERICAN MEMBERS WHICH HAVE CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AS AN EXPLANATION FOR CUBA'S CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP.

THE PROBLEM FOR YUGOSLAVIA--A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE NON-ALIGNED--IS CUBA'S GROWING POWER WITHIN THE MOVEMENT AND HAVANA'S CONSTANT EFFORT TO PUT THE NON-ALIGNED IN THE SOVIET ORBIT. AFTER ALL, AS PRESIDENT TITO STATED IN HIS WELCOMING SPEECH FOR NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN MINISTERS, NON-ALIGNMENT IS "ANTI BLOC."

THE CUBAN THESIS THAT THE "SOCIALIST COUNTRIES ARE THE TRUE ALLIES OF THE NON-ALIGNED STATES" RUNS COUNTER TO THE YUGOSLAV THEORY THAT REJECTS BOTH WESTERN" IMPERIALISM "AND SOVIET "HEGEMONISM." YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS WERE OUTRAGED WHEN CUBA RECENTLY TRIED TO DROP "HEGEMONISM AND ALL OTHER FORMS OF FOREIGN DOMINATION" FROM A LIST OF PRINCIPLES OPPOSED BY NON-ALIGNMENT. FORMER YUGOSLAV FOREIGN MINISTER MILOS MINIC DECLARED "WE CANNOT UNDERSTAND NOR ACCEPT THE STUBBORN INSISTENCE OF SOME PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN TRYING TO CHANGE THE AIMS, CHARACTER AND ROLE OF THE MOVEMENT."

THE CUBAN ATTEMPTS TO COMMIT NON-ALIGNMENT TO A PRO-SOVIET COURSE ARE EXPECTED TO INTENSIFY NEXT YEAR WHEN THE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT CONFERENCE IS SCHEDULED FOR HAVANA. PRESIDENT TITO -- WORRIED ABOUT NON-ALIGNED UNITY -- VOICED HIS CONCERN ABOUT DIVISIONS BASED ON IDEOLOGY SAYING THESE WERE ACCEPTABLE "NO MATTER WHAT SLOGANS THEY HIDE BEHIND."

JS/RD